



Tips to Make Your CRCG Youth-Driven

Why is being youth-driven important for CRCGs?

The CRCG process is collaborative and involves authentic partnerships between members, families, and individuals, including the youth that they serve. Incorporating youth voice provides youth with the opportunity to be at the center of how decisions are made and allows them to be valuable members of the CRCG team. Their active involvement empowers them to become more involved in the care that they receive and promotes a sense of equity and inclusion in decisions about their own lives. The sections below provide youth-driven practices that can be implemented throughout the CRCG process.

Referral

- Include youth in completing the referral as they play a valuable role in completing this document. Including youth provides them the opportunity to think about their strengths (including their skills and natural support systems), goals, needs, and what would be helpful to them.
- Provide a clear explanation of what the CRCG is and why the referral was made. Explain to the youth that they are a valuable member of the CRCG team and encourage their participation at the meeting.
- Be mindful of the youth's previous experiences with other agencies and systems and recognize systematic trauma that may have occurred.

Preparing for the Staffing

- Walk the youth through what to expect at their CRCG meeting:
 - Explain how the room will be set up.
 - Help them understand who is typically at staffings. Ask the youth if there is someone they want or do not want at their staffing.
 - Explain the roles of the CRCG members.
- Be flexible in the structure of the meeting and host the meeting in a time and location that works with the youth. If the youth is not comfortable attending, it is important for the CRCG to identify and address this and find creative ways to incorporate the youth's voice.
- Allow the youth to share their own information at the staffing and support them in strategic sharing. Help the youth think through what is most important to share with the CRCG based on the areas in which they would like help.
- Identify a supportive adult who will be at the meeting and to whom the youth feels comfortable asking questions.

Hosting the Staffing

- Be mindful of the power dynamics among adults and youth within the meeting.
- Maintain a strengths-based approach and avoid focusing solely on the negative.
- Include the youth in the conversations and ensure that the language used is easily understandable. If possible, provide them a list of commonly used acronyms and brief explanations of frequently mentioned programs and services.
- Explore how to help the youth throughout their transition-age years.

Follow Up

- Ensure that youth have a role and responsibility in the next steps.
- Develop a plan to ensure that support does not end after the youth stops meeting with the CRCG.